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(56) Documents Cited

GB 2282303 A DE 003606178 A

(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition R) E1D DTN DTUP, E1X XK1  
INT CL<sup>7</sup> E03B 3/02, E04H 15/32 15/54  
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(54) Abstract Title

Rainwater collection apparatus for a tent

(57) Rainwater collection apparatus comprising a strip of 'PVC' with perforations, is folded double and sewn onto an existing tent design so as to collect and carry water from rain or dew to be finally collected in an existing vessel. It is a means to transfer water falling on to the exterior of a tent to a useable vessel.

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The claims were filed later than the filing date but within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995.

**GB 2 357 312 A**

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DIAGRAM (A)

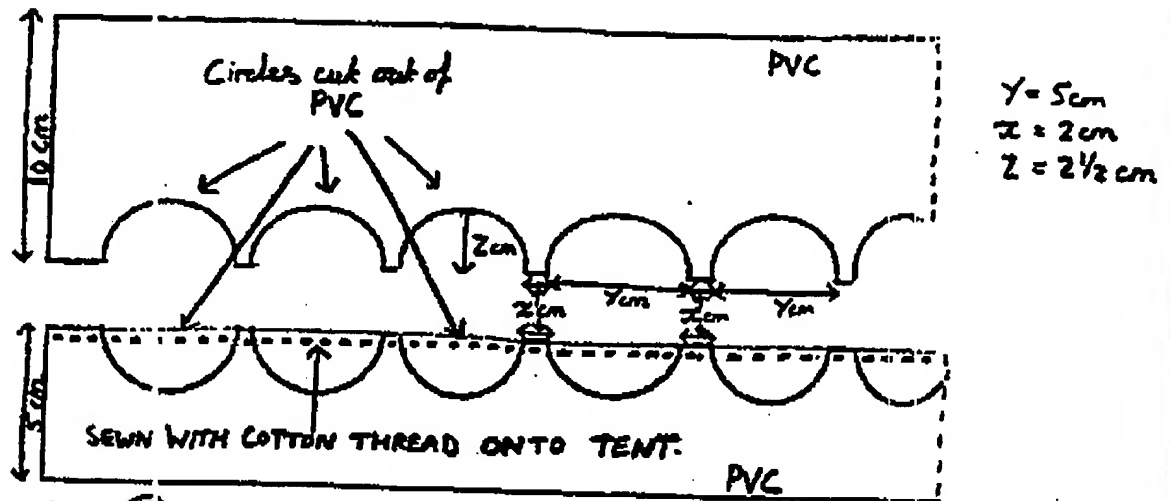


DIAGRAM (B)

SHOULDER 33 CM ABOVE GROUND.

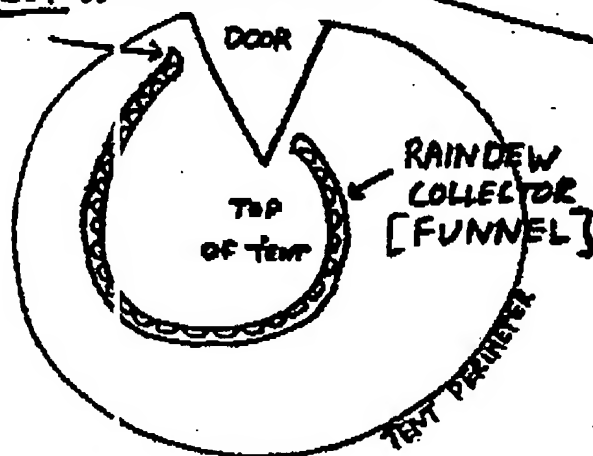


DIAGRAM (C)

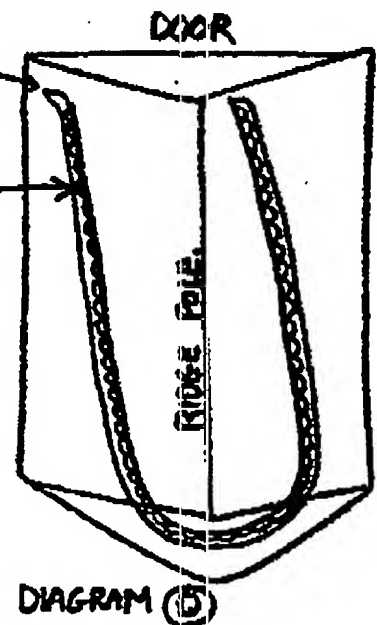


DIAGRAM (D)

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DIAGRAM (E)

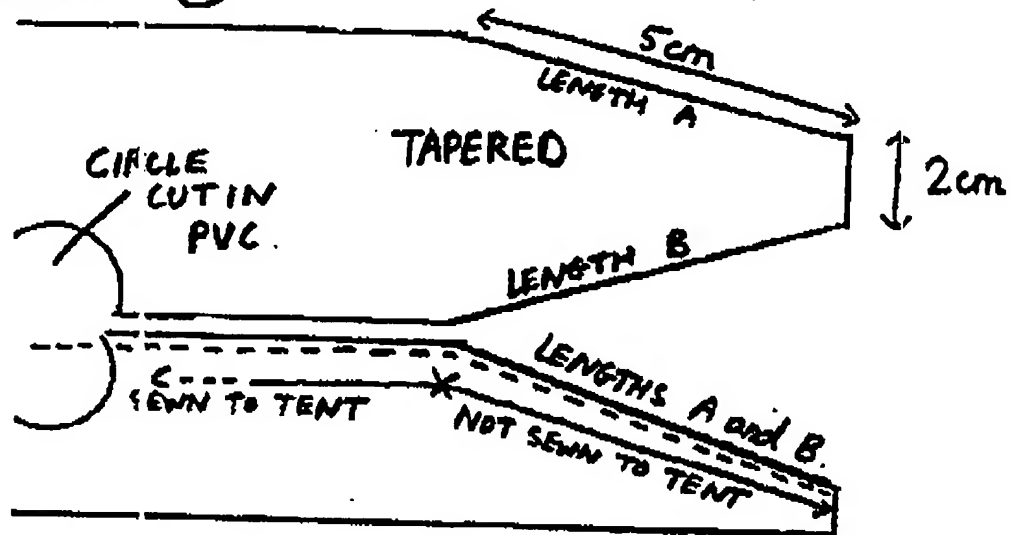


DIAGRAM (F)

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**DESCRIPTION :**

The object of this design is to funnel water off the outer surface of a tent so as to enable collection. The design is of the funnel only with intentions to apply it to a wide variety of existing tent designs.

**BACKGROUND PROBLEM SOLVING :**

A common problem when camping in a tent in areas detached from habitations or modern conveniences is an ability to collect water necessary for survival. The outer surface of a tent, which I shall refer to as the fly sheet, has a large surface area upon which an adequate quantity of water often accumulates on whether it be as a consequence of dew in hot countries or rainfall. The problem at present is in the inability to make use of this water in terms of collection. I have therefore designed a lightweight, durable and easy to use method that enables transfer of water from the flysheet to a water vessel. It is my experience that vessels of a height of a two litre standard bottle are commonly carried by campers, thus this design will carry specifications convenient for these dimensions but also so as to be used by any other vessel.

**DESIGN :**

A funnel attached to the tent so as allow water to flow into it from above and run downwards using the force of gravity to enable collection in a collecting vessel most usually a plastic bottle. The funnel is sewn onto the tent so as to be a permanent fixture, it is non-removable. The funnel is designed to be sewn onto the flysheet running in a loop of the tent from near the top of the tent one side of the doorway, around the tent at a downward angle of approximately thirty degrees to finish in a spout at the opposite side of the door. It is not designed to cross over a tent opening. The spout will be at a height of a two litre bottle: thirty three centimetres. However the design is for the funnel and spout only, exact orientation of the funnel will be decided by the manufacturer. This design is for a funnel made out of PVC material as its lightweight, can be easily sewn onto the flysheet of a tent, durable and provides a good surface upon which water can flow. However it is foreseen that manufacturers would use the material chosen for the flysheet of their particular tents, most likely a form of Polyester, dependent on price range. As such this design is for the method of collecting water and PVC specifications should only act as a guide.

The funnel is a rectangular strip of PVC with length determined by dimensions of respective tents, for example if the tent is a dome, frame or ridge pole design. [See illustrations.] Semi-circles of PVC are cut away along one side of this strip so as to enable water flow into the funnel. The two longer sides of the strip are folded together and sewn together and onto the flysheet. Cotton thread should be used or another material favoured by the manufacturer. For this design I stipulate cotton but as with the funnel material it is only as a guide. The snout of the funnel is a length of the PVC strip at its downward end tapered and sewn together to form a convenient pouring design. The snout will be five centimetres long.

It is perceived by the designer that manufacturers may target a young market with bright colours to grab attention. Thus colours will not be stipulated for the funnel.

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## CLAIMS

1. A rectangular strip of material of no fixed dimensions and along one edge of which is a series of semi-circles removed from the material.
2. A strip of material as claimed in Claim 1 which is folded double and sewn onto an existing text design on the outside of the outer flysheet.
3. A tapering at one end of the strip of material sewn together to form a snout.
4. A collector of water substantially as herein described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Amendments to the claims have been filed as follows

CLAIMS

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1. Rainwater collection apparatus comprising an elongate strip of flexible plastic material having a channel cross-section, wherein a series of semi-circular pieces of material have been removed from one edge of the channel.
2. Rainwater collection apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the material is PVC.
3. Rainwater collection apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the lowermost end of the strip is tapered.
4. A tent having a flysheet which incorporates rainwater collection apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims.
5. Rainwater collection apparatus as claimed in claim 1 and substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
6. A tent as claimed in claim 4 and substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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